

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member of an injection-molded material;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members ~~are configured~~ have first ends opposite from the connection portion and have a configuration and are dimensioned for receiving the article through between the first ends and hooking the first and second support members around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to one of the support members and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a handheld tool.

2. (Original) The tool holder of claim 1, wherein the first and second support members are of injection molded plastic.

3. (Original) The tool holder of claim 2, wherein the first and second support members are pieces of separate construction that are joined to each other.

4. (Original) The tool holder of claim 2, wherein the first and second support members are a single piece of unitary construction.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A tool holder ~~of claim 5~~ for mounting to a user's clothing article, wherein the stiffening rib comprises comprising:

a first support member of an injection-molded material;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and

dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article, and at least one of the support members comprises a plurality of stiffening ribs extending therefrom and arranged substantially forming a truss that is configured for stiffening said at least one support member; and
a tool holding member mounted to one of the support members and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a handheld tool.

7. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ tool holder of claim 1 for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member of an injection-molded material;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to one of the support members and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a handheld tool;

wherein the first support member has a back surface facing away from the second support member and disposed for placement against a user's waist, the back surface being curved to generally follow the curve of the user's waist.

8. (Currently amended) The tool holder of claim 7, wherein:

the support members are connected to each other and define a an article space therebetween configured to receive the article; and

the first support member has a curved surface facing the article space and disposed to contact the article received therein.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ tool holder of claim 1 for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member of an injection-molded material;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured have first ends opposite from the connection portion, the first ends having a configuration and

dimensioned for receiving from between the first ends and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and
a tool holding member mounted to one of the support members and
configured for receiving and holding a portion of a handheld tool;

wherein the first support member comprises a first bottom end disposed below the connection portion and has a height between the connection portion and the first bottom end, the first support member comprises first and second legs extending along more than about half of the height of the first support member.

10. (Original) The tool holder of claim 1, wherein the tool holding member defines an opening to receive and hold the portion of the tool, the opening being of sufficient size to receive a cylindrical object having a diameter of at least about a ½ inch.

11. (Original) The tool holder of claim 1, wherein said one support member comprises a recessed mounting portion for attaching with a correspondingly shaped mounting portion of the tool holding member.

12. (Currently amended) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members ~~are configured~~ have first ends opposite from the connection portion and have a configuration and are dimensioned for receiving the article through between the first ends and hooking the first and second support members around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and having an operative position extending from the second support member for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool and being retractable to a retracted position for decreasing the bulk of the tool holder.

13. (Currently amended) The tool holder of claim 12, wherein the tool holding member is disposed substantially flush against the second support member in the retracted position such that in the retracted position the holding member is substantially prevented from holding the portion of the tool.

14. (Original) The tool holder of claim 12, wherein the tool holding member is pivotally connected to the second support member for pivoting between the operative and retracted positions.

15. (Original) The tool holder of claim 14, wherein:
the second support member comprises a front face facing away from the second support member; and
the tool holding member is pivotable towards and away from the front face.

16. (Currently amended) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member;
a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article;

a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool that has a diameter of at least about 1/2 inch; and

a secondary tool holding member associated with at least one of the support members and tool holding member and configured for holding a second tool.

17. (Currently amended) The tool holder of claim 16, wherein the secondary tool holding member defines at least one secondary tool recess configured and dimensioned for receiving and holding the secondary tool, and the tool holding portion is configured for holding a handle of the hand-held tool.

18. (Original) The tool holder of claim 17, wherein the recess has a ribbed, substantially cylindrical portion configured and dimensioned for holding a drill tip.

19. (Original) The tool holder of claim 18, wherein:
at least one of the support members defines a grasping recess that is sufficiently large to permit grasping by a user of a portion of a secondary tool disposed therein;

the secondary tool holding member is disposed for access thereto by the user in the grasping recess;

the grasping recess and secondary tool holding members being configured for holding the secondary tool in the secondary tool holding member with a graspable portion of the secondary tool protruding from the secondary tool holding member and disposed graspably within the grasping recess.

20. (Original) The tool holder of claim 16, wherein the secondary tool holding member comprises at least one resilient protrusion for engaging a recess of the secondary tool.

21. (Original) The tool holder of claim 20, wherein the secondary tool holding member comprises a plurality of resilient protrusions configured and dimensioned for engaging a socket for a socket wrench.

22. (Original) The tool holder of claim 21, wherein the resilient protrusions are movable with respect to each other to accommodate differently sized sockets.

23. (Currently amended) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member having a first bottom end and a first connection portion disposed upwards from the first bottom end;

a second support member having a second bottom end and a second connection portion disposed upwards from the second bottom end, wherein the first and

second connection portions are securable to each other in attached association, the first and second support members being configured and dimensioned for receiving the article through between the bottom ends and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool.

24. (Original) The tool holder of claim 23, wherein the connection portions are configured for engagement with each other.

25. (Original) The tool holder of claim 24, further comprising a locking portion associated with the support members for locking the support members together in secured association.

26. (Original) The tool holder of claim 23, wherein:
at least one of the connecting portions comprises a connecting extension; and
at least the other of the connecting portions comprises a connecting recess configured to engage the connecting extension for securing the first and second connecting portions to each other.

27. (Original) The tool holder of claim 23, wherein the first and second support members are substantially coupled to each other with the connecting portions in the attached association.

28. (Currently amended) ~~The A tool holder of claim 23, wherein the second support member and tool holder comprise~~ for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member having a first bottom end and a first connection portion disposed upwards from the first bottom end;

a plurality of second support members, each having a second bottom end and a second connection portion disposed upwards from the second bottom end, wherein the first connection portion is securable to each of the second connection portions in attached

association, the first and second support members in the attached association being configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to each of the second support member and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool;

wherein the second support members and tool holders having have different configurations for holding different tools.

29. (Currently amended) A ~~The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising: a first support member; a~~ of claim 1, wherein the second support member having has a front face and ~~connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool; wherein the front face that~~ comprises a recess facing the tool holding member and is configured and dimensioned for receiving another portion of the tool held in the tool holding member.

30. (Original) The tool holder of claim 29, wherein the tool holding member has a generally rounded portion defining a rounded shape for holding a round portion of the tool, and the recess comprises an indentation in the second support member disposed substantially concentrically with the rounded shape of the tool holding member.

31. (Currently amended) A ~~The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising: a first support member; a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second members disposed on opposite sides of the article; a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool~~ of claim 1, wherein the tool holding member including includes

a notch configured for receiving and positioning a portion of the tool in a predetermined orientation.

32. (Currently amended) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members ~~are configured~~ have first ends opposite from the connection portion and having a configuration and being dimensioned for receiving the article from between the first ends and hooking the first and second support portions around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool;

wherein at least one of the first and second support members comprises a projection facing the other of the support members for resisting removal of the tool holder from the article.

33. (Currently amended) A ~~The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising: a first support member; a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second members disposed on opposite sides of the article; of claim 1, wherein a~~ the tool holding member mounted to the second support member and defining defines a tool space configured for receiving and holding a hand-held tool, ~~the tool holding member defining and~~ first and second openings on opposite sides of and communicated with the tool space, wherein the first opening is larger than the second opening for receiving a larger portion of the tool than the second opening.

34. (Currently amended) A ~~The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising: first and second support members configured to cooperatively receive and hook around the article with the first and second members disposed on opposite~~

~~sides of the article; a tool holding member having a mounting portion and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand held tool of claim 1, wherein the second support member comprises a receiving recess, and the holding member mounting portion is received and supported in the recess; and the tool holder further comprises a closure attached adjacent the recess for closing the recess and retaining the holding member mounting portion pivotally therein.~~

35. (Currently amended) A The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article of claim 1, further comprising: first and second support members configured to cooperatively receive and hook around the article with the first and second members disposed on opposite sides of the article; a tool holding member having a mounting portion and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand held tool; and a mount pivotally attached to the second support member and pivotally supporting the holding member, wherein the mount has first and second portions disposed about the holding member to trap the holding member in the mount.

36. (Currently amended) A The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article of claim 1, further comprising: first and second support members configured to cooperatively receive and hook around the article with the first and second members disposed on opposite sides of the article; a tool holding member having a mounting portion that is mounted to the second support member is configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand held tool; and a deflecting ramp disposed adjacent to the mount and configured and angled for deflecting impact from the tool as it is placed moved towards the tool holding member to be held thereby.

37. (Currently amended) A The tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising: first and second support members configured to cooperatively receive and hook around the article with the first and second members disposed on opposite sides of the article; a tool holding member having a mounting portion that is mounted to the second support member is configured for receiving and holding a portion of a hand held tool; and a retaining member configured for attaching the tool holding member to the

~~second support member of claim 1, wherein~~ the retaining member ~~being is~~ in a snap-fit association with the second support member.

38. (New) The tool holder of claim 1, wherein the tool holding member comprises a generally U-shaped hook member configured for holding an elongated portion of a tool having a diameter of at least about 1/2 inch.

39. (New) The tool holder of claim 1, wherein the support members are connected to each other and define an article space therebetween configured to receive the article, the first support member having substantially an S-curve shape to define a restricting space portion adjacent the article space, wherein the article space is wider than any restricting facing the restricting portion and the second support member to retain the article in the article space, the first support member curving away from the second support member toward the first end to facilitate insertion of the article from between the first ends.

40. (New) The tool holder of claim 1, wherein the first and second ends are free ends having a configuration spaced from each other to receive the article therebetween form hooking the first and second support members around the article.

41. (New) The tool holder of claim 1, further comprising a tool holding mount that is affixed to the a mounting portion of said one support member, the tool holding member being pivotally mounted to the mount.

42. (New) The tool holder of claim 41, wherein the tool holding member is pivotable about two axis with respect to the mount.

43. (New) The tool holder of claim 12, wherein the first and second support members are of separate construction.